decided to drastically prune the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the affidavit has since been filed; and

(d) if so, the position taken by Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) had filed a Writ Petition No. 196 of 2001 in the Supreme Court of India against Union of India (represented by the Department of Food and Public Distribution) and Others regarding distribution of food grains to the poor. In the Interlocutory Application No. 25 of 2003 in the said Writ Petition, several grievances have been mentioned in respect of the Below Poverty Line Census, 2002 being conducted in the rural areas of the country. These include an allegation that the Ministry of Rural Development has advised the States to restrict the number of persons below poverty line. An affidavit is being filed by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in the Supreme Court, explaining the position of the Government.

Illegal Bangladeshis

*480. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a sizeable concentration of Bangladeshis illegally residing in Delhi, U.P., particularly in Noida and in the States bordering Bangladesh and Bihar;

(b) their estimated number at present, State and U.T.-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to deport them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that a large number of Bangladeshi nationals, who have managed to infiltrate into the country due to the long, open and porous nature of the international border are illegally residing in the States bordering Bangladesh such as West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Tripura as well as in States like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, etc. Such illegal Bangladeshi immigrants are able to mingle with the local population quite easily due to ethnic, linguistic and cultural similarities. Therefore exact estimate about their numbers state-wise are not readily available.

(c) The powers under Section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the Sate Governments/Union Territory Administrations who have been asked to launch special drives to detect and deport illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

The matter was also discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers and they were sensitized on the need to take effective and sustained action in this regard. The matter has also been taken up diplomatically with the Government of Bangladesh at various levels.

written answers to unstarred questions

Non-inclusion of nominee of CITU in CMPFO

3402. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the nominee of Centre of Indian Trade Union has not been included as a member of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation; and

(b) if so, reasons for this discriminations?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the board of trustees of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) is not represented.

The representation of trade unions is given in the Board of Trustees (BOT), Coal Mines Provident Fund according to their membership strength in Coal Industry. As per CMPF & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948 only six representatives of trade unions can be accommodated in the Board of whom at least one shall be a person who in not a member of any such organisation. At present following the provisions of the Act, the membership, is as under :—

INTUC	—	2
AITUC	—	1
HMS	—	1
BMS	—	1

In addition, one employee has been nominated under this category keeping in view the spirit of the provisions of the Act, which stipulates that at least one member shall be an employee who does not hold any post in any trade union organizations.

For the reason explained above, other trade union including CITU is not represented in BOT.